

The Times-Dispatch INDUSTRIAL SECTION

THE TIMES FOUNDED 1886.
THE DISPATCH FOUNDED 1860.

WHOLE NUMBER 17,781

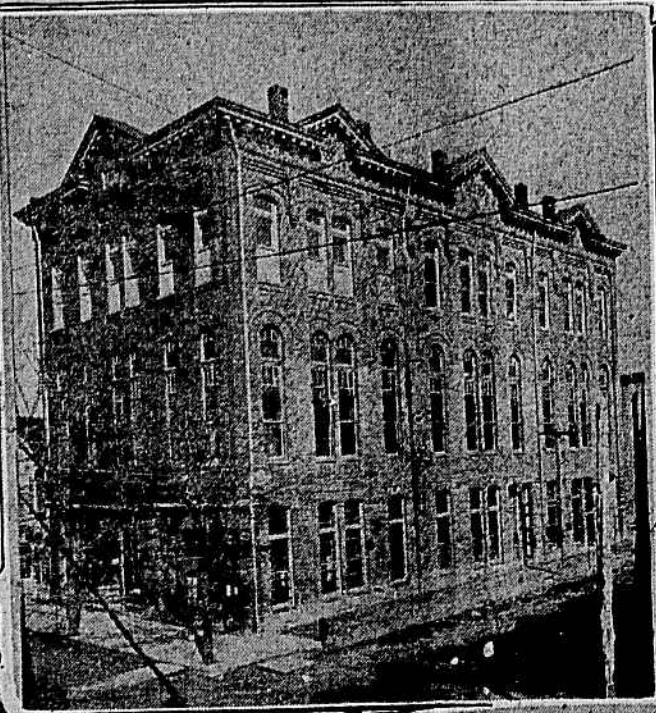
RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1907.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

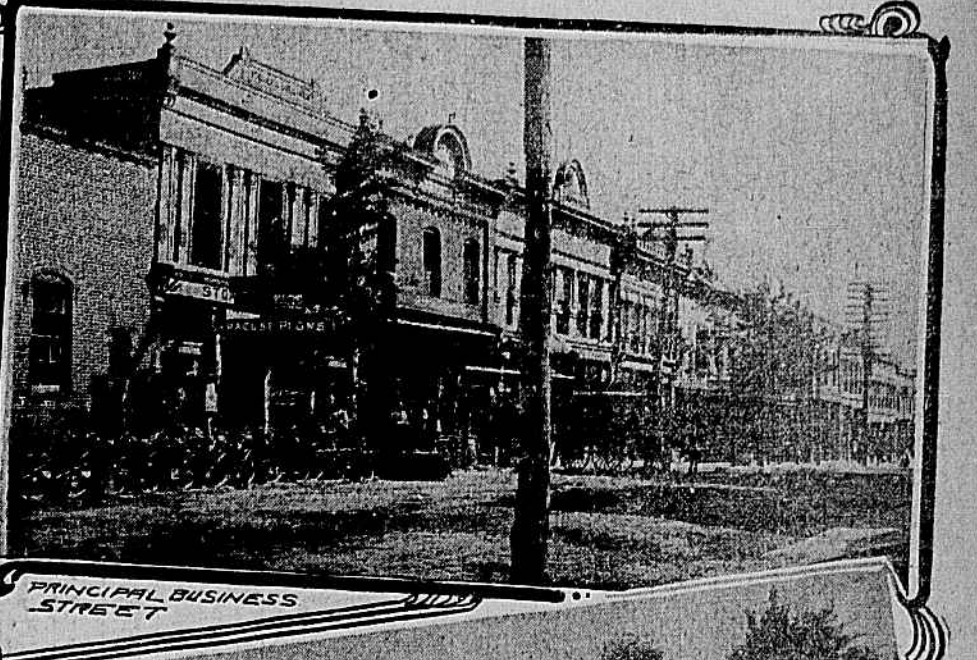
BUSY SCENES IN PROGRESSIVE BLACKSTONE, THE HUB OF THE SOUTHSIDE



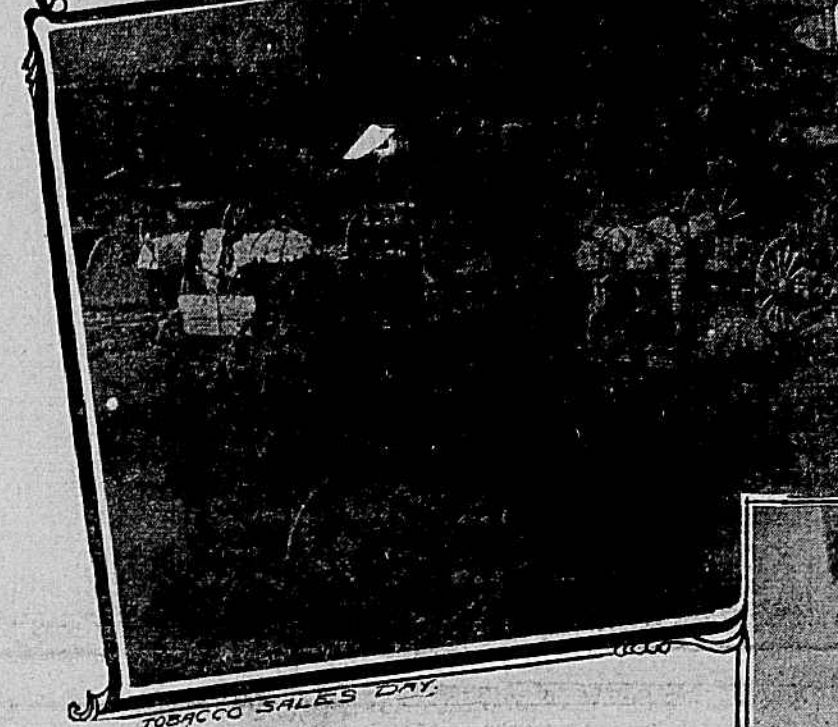
RESIDENCE OF H. H. SEAY.



CITIZENS BANK BUILDING AND OPERA HOUSE.



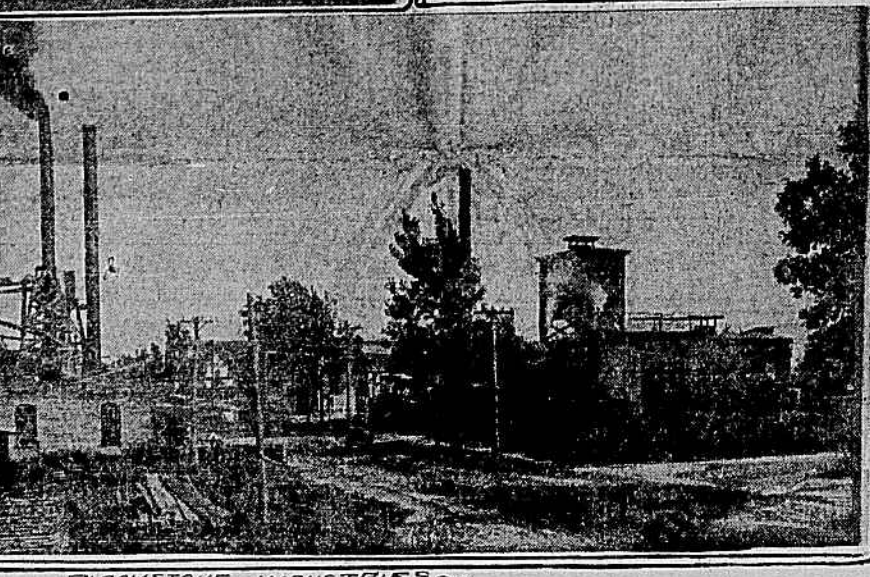
PRINCIPAL BUSINESS STREET.



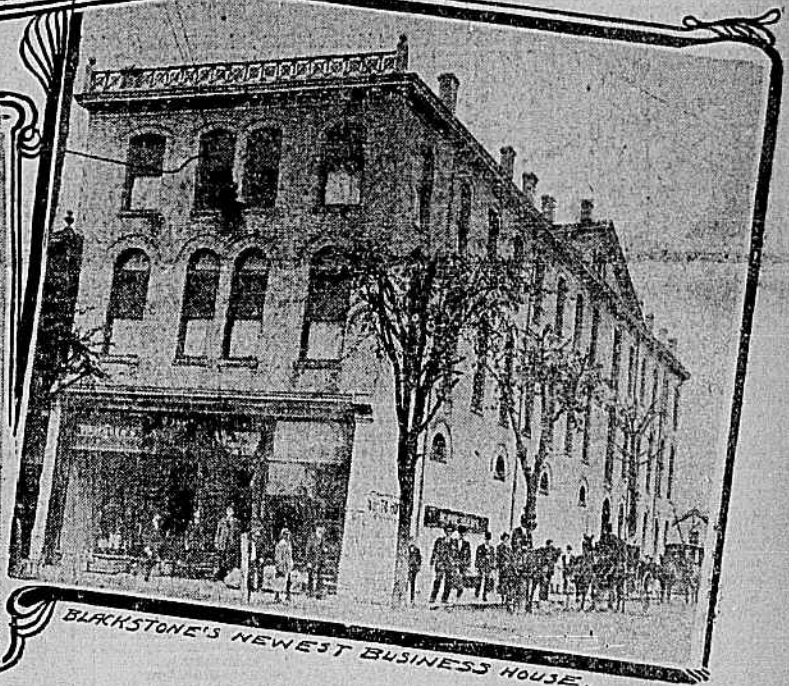
TOBACCO SALES DAY.



FARM SCENE NEAR BLACKSTONE.



BLACKSTONE INDUSTRIES.



BLACKSTONE'S NEWEST BUSINESS HOUSE.

BLACKSTONE THE HUB OF THE SOUTHSIDE

A Live and Throbbing Business Centre as Well as One of the Educational Strongholds of Virginia.

HER BANKS ARE STRONG AND HER MERCHANTS BUSY

A Good and Progressive Leaf Tobacco Market. Manufacturing Enterprises Doing Well--Others Can Do Equally as Well--Board of Trade Invites Correspondence.

BY FRANK S. WOODSON.
(Staff Correspondent of The Times-Dispatch.)

BLACKSTONE, VA., December 21.—The more I travel in Virginia the more I am convinced that the best life in the Old Dominion and its surest sources of wealth are to be found in its smaller towns. The old State is wonderfully rich in its smaller towns if it only knew it, but there are many people who do not know it. I have never been more fully convinced of the fact that the smaller and younger towns are Virginia's source of wealth than since I have been spending a couple of days in this up-to-date and in every way energetic town of Blackstone, a town which has been accurately named the "Hub of Southside Virginia."

A real estate agency located here recently sent out a circular in which it described the advantages of this town and all of the surrounding country, closing the "sheet" with a request that the reader should write for information, and then added, as if it were an afterthought, "Or, better still, come and pay us a visit." I accepted the invitation, and the visit so far has convinced me that the old Commonwealth has a very rich and a splendid-paying asset in the town of Blackstone.

Bringing Things to Pass.
From the early days of the old Southside Railway, which is now the Norfolk and Western, the station which is now known as Blackstone was the largest shipping point on the line between Lynchburg and Petersburg, being the depot for an extensive back country. It has maintained that distinction to the present day, and will continue to maintain it for many long years to come.

About twenty years ago Blackstone, which was originally known as "Blacks and Whites," became a town, and just how it happened I do not know, and nobody seems able to explain; some might say progressive people located here. They commenced at once to bring things to pass and they have been

keeping up that vigorous lick to this good day.

They Pull Together.
That they have brought many good things to pass in the way of education, manufactures, general business and twentieth century progress in general is due to the fact that the people have a most delightful way of pulling together. When something is to be done the live men of the town get close to each other, lay out the plan and then put it in operation. There are all kinds of people here, of course, and all sorts of religious faiths, and all that kind of thing, and the things which usually divide good men are as sharply drawn in Blackstone as in any town in the country, but when it comes down to a matter affecting the general interest no lines are drawn, and a homogenous constituency comes right up to the rack and everybody masticates the same kind of fodder.

A Methodist educational institution here has in it a goodly amount of Baptist and Presbyterian and Episcopal money; one of the handsomest Methodist churches in the Virginia Conference prides itself on the fact that it was largely built on Baptist, Presbyterian and Episcopal funds; a new \$12,000 Baptist church building now nearing completion, and which will be an ornament to the town, boasts that one of the largest, if not the very largest, contributor to the building fund, is a shouting Methodist. The Episcopalians could never have had their splendid little house of worship here or the colored Episcopal church, with its parochial school, if it had not been for the help they had from the Methodists, the Baptists and the Presbyterians; and so it goes. In church and educational matters the people of Blackstone pull together, and when it comes down to industrial and business matters, they get even closer together and pull perhaps a little harder. This explains why the old railway station

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SELL FEWER POUNDS, BUT GET MORE MONEY

Sales of Tobacco Not So Heavy as Last Year, but the Prices Much Better.

Friday saw the close of one of the most successful and satisfactory fall seasons in the Richmond tobacco market for the last several years. Up to the last sale the market was active beyond the hopes of the dealers. The acreage for this year has been much smaller than last, but the weight of tobacco has only fallen off about half a million pounds so far, and by the time the season closes in the spring it is thought that there will be no appreciable difference. The farmers have gotten for their crops more money than was received for the larger crop of last year. It is estimated that only about 20 per cent. of the sun-cured crop has been sold, and not more than 20 per cent. of the dark. Thus it will be seen that the bulk of this year's raising is still in the barns. That which has been disposed of has sold on the average more than 20 per cent. higher than last year.

Wrappers of the dark, common type have been plentiful, but the finer grades have not shown up in as great quantities as had been expected. The highest price of the season was \$34, gotten for a nice wrapper sold by Mr. W. L. Hazell, for Mr. Brackett Vaughn, of Hanover county. Mr. Hazell said yesterday that the market had closed as firm as at any time during the fall, but that he thought the high prices of last week were due in a great measure to the timely warning to the farmers: "Hold your tobacco until after Christmas." But for this warning, he thinks there would have been a tremendous glut, which would have thrown prices far below their present position.

As to the prospect after Christmas, it is confidently thought that prices will be even better than during the fall, especially on the higher grades, which have not been so plentiful as common varieties. The crop is a small one, and if it is marketed in a reasonable manner and not all rushed in at once the farmers may be assured of good prices, as the manufacturers need every pound of it. The attention of raisers of sun-cured and dark stemming tobacco is called to the fact that almost all of the

factories handling these grades of tobacco in the State are located here, and that Richmond is the best market for these varieties, besides being equal to any for other grades.

Rocky Mount Market.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
ROCKY MOUNT, N. C., December 21.—Receipts of leaf tobacco this week have been rather smaller than expected, the four days' sale amounting to about 300,000 pounds. The quality of the offerings as a whole have been poor, the farmers seeming to have marketed their best tobacco, and are now selling the common, nondescript sorts, containing more or less greenish, undesirable tobacco.

Prices on the better grades continue as high as at any time this season, though the common, nondescript tobacco are seemingly neglected, the demand for them being limited. Wrappers and bright export leaf have shown up in small quantities, and the more desirable ones taken at good prices. The market closed for the holidays Thursday, and sales will be resumed January 2, 1908. Sales for the season to date amount to 5,152,000 pounds at an average of \$10.50 per hundred which is a loss of nearly 500,000 pounds over last year. It is estimated that from 2,000,000 to 2,500,000 pounds will be sold after Christmas, which will bring the total figures to a little above last season's sales, thus indicating a greater acreage planted in this section.

Winston-Salem's Large Sales.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
WINSTON-SALEM, December 21.—The leaf tobacco warehouses closed today for the Christmas holidays. They will not reopen until January 8th. Up to this time about 9,000,000 pounds of leaf have been sold on this market since September 1st. Breaks were quite large this week, and the average paid was about 11 cents a pound.

Petersburg Market.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
PETERSBURG, VA., December 21.—Receipts were heavy the past week. The market closed Friday for the holidays, and will resume again January 7th. Quotations are as follows: Common lugs, \$14 to \$16; good lugs, \$12 to \$14; short leaf, 6 to 8; shipping leaf, 9 to 13; short wrappers, 10 to 14; fine wrappers, 15 to 18.

Bedford City.
BEDFORD CITY, VA., December 21.—Tobacco has been coming in very well during the past week, but the quality is not up to expectations. Prices have been firm. The market closed today for the holidays, to resume January 20.

Small Receipts at Danville.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
DANVILLE, VA., December 21.—Messrs. Durrell Bros. give this review of the tobacco market for the week: Receipts this week on the Danville market have been small, sales only lasting until about the middle of the day. Our sales, however, for the month of December have been larger

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REAL ESTATE AND BUILDING NEWS

Holiday Season at Hand, but Business Is Good All the Same.

The Christmas shoppers have held the belt during the past week, and as the most of them are women, the gallant real estate agents readily surrendered. The real estate men always look for dull business just preceding and just following Christmas, and it was but natural that they should settle down to a holiday season even before the season opened. However, it is a fact that Richmond really cannot be held down even by the holiday joys. The auction sales announced for the past week were well attended, and the figures named by the bidders were in the main satisfactory to the sellers and a number of sales were made on the spot.

Deals Closed.
Among such sales made during the week was that of a two-story frame dwelling and large lot, No. 1418 1-2 West Cary Street, by J. Thompson Brown & Co., which was sold to Mr. H. L. Baumgartner. Baumgartner purchased the property purely as an investment. The lot is one of the largest in that section of the city, and is adapted to many purposes.

J. Thompson Brown & Co. also report a private sale of a lot sixty feet front on the corner of Dock and Eighteenth Streets, near the Trigg ship yards, to Mr. S. T. Beveridge, for \$1,300. While Mr. Beveridge would not commit himself as to his object in purchasing, it is understood that as soon as the present lease on the property expires, which has a year or more to run, it is his purpose to improve it, to be used as a manufacturing plant. The lot has peculiar advantages for this purpose, not only from the fact that it runs back 300 feet or more to James River and the sale carries with it all riparian rights.

The same firm closed a sale the past week of a lot on Randolph Street to Messrs. Charles and Otto Schneider, who purchased the same for the purpose of building a new house.

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NOTABLE INCREASE IN REVENUES OF STATE

Auditor's Report Shows Assessments for the Year \$204,227 Ahead of 1906--Live Stock Industry Grows--Some Interesting Figures.

General Summary of Reports.

TAXES ASSESSED ON LAND AND PROPERTY BOOKS IN STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE, AND BY THE CORPORATION COMMISSION ON STEAM AND ELECTRIC RAILROADS.

	1907.	1906.	Increase.
Capitalization	\$ 615,070 50	\$ 628,027 00	\$ 14,947 50
Real estate	1,354,699 32	1,395,022 14	40,322 82
Personal property	484,328 58	530,001 52	45,672 94
Income	180,771 00	137,233 19	43,537 81
Steam railroads	675,472 14	720,983 68	45,511 54
Electric railroads	57,134 13	65,415 67	8,281 54
Total	\$3,287,485 57	\$3,491,713 20	\$204,227 63

* One-third of this, when collected, is returned to the counties and cities.

As an evidence of the growing prosperity of Virginia, figures taken from the advance sheets of the Auditor's report for the year 1907 show a total increase in the assessment of taxes on property, exclusive of banks and insurance companies, of upwards of \$204,000 over the record of 1906.

To be exact, the figures given in a table printed above are \$204,227.63. Of this increase, the sum of \$14,947.50 is levied for poll taxes upon young men in the State who have arrived at the voting age since the 1906 assessment was made. This means that 9,965 new voters were assessed for taxation, and that if they have paid these taxes they may participate in all of next year's elections. An increase of \$4,511.54 comes from steam railroads, and \$8,311.54 from electric lines.

Next to railroads, the heaviest increase is in the personal property assessment. The net figures are \$45,672.94, while \$33,461.29 additional was assessed against incomes.

The increase in the value of real estate is \$40,322.82, though this is only on account of improvements, and not upon the land itself, the latter being reassessed only once in four years.

Some Interesting Figures.
Some interesting deductions may be drawn from the personal property returns. There have been steady increases in nearly every direction. The shoe industry, for example, shows a

notable advance within the past year. According to the report of 1906 there were 348,771 sheep in the State, valued at \$893,350. For 1907 the figures are 355,356, valued at \$1,007,915. The number has not kept pace with the value, and this goes to show that the breed is being improved and that a higher grade of sheep is being raised.

Horses and mules go from \$43,262 to \$48,020 in numbers, and in value from \$16,410.74 to \$18,084.94.

The cattle business seems to have boomed beyond any other animal industry in the State. The figures are 373,924 head, valued at \$8,301,441 in 1906, against 559,733, valued at \$8,589,122 in 1907.

Four thousand one hundred and forty-five goats are listed for taxation in 1907, against 5,900 in 1906.

The hog industry is about the only one that shows a decrease in numbers, and the fact that the value is increased would seem to indicate that cholera has been among them, rather than that the commission overlooked to assess them. There were listed in 1906 479,223 hogs, valued at \$1,149,165, and in 1907 only 472,624, and yet the value of the latter is set down at \$1,224,463.

Apparently a great many more people in Virginia rode in carriages, buggies, carts, etc., in 1907 than in 1906, for the number listed for taxation has increased from 230,455 to 241,911.

Short on Watches.
The small number of watches returned